

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
ORIGINAL DATE: 19 AUGUST 1998
TAG REVIEW DATE: 12 JANUARY 1999**

1. **SITE NAME:** Fort Sumner Army Air Field,
Air to Ground Gunnery Range

SITE NUMBER: K06NM042400

LOCATION:

City: Fort Sumner
County: De Baca and Roosevelt
State: New Mexico

PROJECT NUMBER: K06NM042401

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 3

ASR RAC: 4

TAG RAC: 4

2. **POC'S:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** Fort Sumner AAF, ATG Gunnery Range consisted of 15,527 acres and is located in De Baca and Roosevelt Counties, approximately 42 miles west of Clovis, New Mexico. The north boundary of the site lies, generally, four miles south of highway U.S. 60 & U.S. 84. The town of Tolar is north of the

northeast corner of the site. The ATG Gunnery Range consists of Sections 19 thru 23 and 26 thru 35, Township 2 North Range 29 East; Sections 2 thru 6, Township 1 North Range 29 East; Section 1, Township 1 North Range 28 East; and Sections 24, 25 and 36, Township 2 North Range 28 East. Prior to use as a air to ground gunnery range during the WW II era, the site was used for ranching purposes, primarily the grazing of livestock. The majority of the land is currently owned by the State of New Mexico and leased to private individuals for cattle grazing purposes.

4. SITE HISTORY: Fort Sumner Army Air Field (AAF) was originally established as a glider school. The base then became an advanced twin engine flying school, and by late 1944, it had become a fighter base. As a fighter base, it trained pilots in aerial and ground attack techniques. The fighters were also used by the nearby bomber schools in training gunners in acquiring targets and in how to operate with a friendly fighter escort. By late 1945, the property was declared surplus and finally disposed of in 1947.

The Fort Sumner AAF, also known as the Tolar Air to Ground Gunnery Range, was originally assigned to Clovis Army Air Field.

It was located within the Fort Sumner local flying area, which eventually caused the range to be transferred to Fort Sumner. As annotated in historical documents, this range was also known as the Clovis "New" Air to Ground Range, the Clovis Air to Ground Range Number 2, and the Fort Sumner AAF, Air to Ground Gunnery Range.

The Fort Sumner AAF had two assigned air to ground gunnery ranges known as the Talar Range and the Delphos Range. Maps of the Tolar Range indicate that range had skip bombing targets, rocket and fighter bombing targets, and strafing ranges. It is assumed that most of the practice bombing and rocket firing occurred on the Tolar Range, but the exact amounts of ammunition used on each range is not known. No documentary evidence was collected which indicates that high explosive munitions were used on this range.

Fort Sumner AAF had an active chemical warfare training program. Unit histories talk of student training involving spray missions (smoke) and decontamination training using live mustard agent. It appears that this training was conducted on the base proper.

The archives search process did not confirm the remaining presence of hazardous OE items from the use of the site as an air to ground gunnery range in support of either the Fort Sumner AAF

or Clovis AAF training mission. Based upon research, interviews, aerial photo interpretation, and a site visit, any OE residue remaining on this site would be expected to be limited to expended and unexpended .50 caliber ball and tracer, 3 lb. Miniature practice bomb MK 3, MK 4 or MK 5, M38-series, 100 lb. Practice bombs and 2.25 inch practice rockets.

Although there remains some possibility of small caliber ammunition, 3 lb. and 100 lb. practice bombs, and 2.25 inch practice rocket OE remaining on-site, the risk potential to the public can only be categorized as low. The small caliber ammunition and debris (up to .50 cal) would be expected to be found randomly on and below the surface of the former air to ground range. Concentrations of OE material, consisting of practice bomb and aircraft rocket debris, would be expected to be found on and below the ground surface in the immediate area of the skip bombing, rocket, and fighter bombing targets. The vast majority of the 15,527 acre site is free of OE debris.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Size Acres:	Approximately 15,527
Former Use:	A To G Gunnery & Bombing Range
Present Use:	Livestock grazing
Probable End Use:	Same as above
Ordinance Presence:	Potential
Type:	Small Arms Ammunition, 3 & 100 lb. Practice Bombs, 2.25" Practice Rockets

6. CURRENT STATUS: This Archives Search Report (ASR) for Fort Sumner AAF, Air to Ground Gunnery Range was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in August 1998.

7. STRATEGY: EE/CA (RAC 4)

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group met and discussed this ASR on 12 January 1999 and determined an EE/CA for the entire site as there is a potential for practice bombs and 2.25 inch practice rockets to be encountered throughout this FUDS. Recommend the main focus of any removal action concentrate in the areas around the Skip Bombing Targets, Rocket Targets, Fighter Bombing Range and the Air to Ground Gunnery Range as the SI Team did not actually find any remnants of practice bombs or rockets during their inspection of this site.

There are known Federally- and State-listed species occurring in the site area. An on-site inspection by the appropriate federal and state personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

9. **SCHEDULE SUMMARY:** EE/CA

10. **FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY:** For Official Use Only